

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed July 11, 2003 in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith a petition requesting a two month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from October 11, 2003 to and including December 11, 2003.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the allowance of 26-39 and the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 8-9, 13-19 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,818,728 to Rai et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,288,559 to Bernier et al. with Harper, *Electronic Packaging and Interconnection Handbook*. In view of the Examiner's indication that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 8 therein. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 9 to depend from claim 1. In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-25 are allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: November 13, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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